THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST Mr. J. Reading,

WHO

Being found Guilty of

HIGH MISDEMEANOURS,

Was fined to the KING in one thousand Pounds, To suffer one years Imprisonment, And to stand three several days in the Pillory, at three several places; And of his usage by the people, and his Deportment in the Pillory.

WITH

Other remarkable Circumstances.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for *B. W.* 1679.

THE

PROCEEDINGS

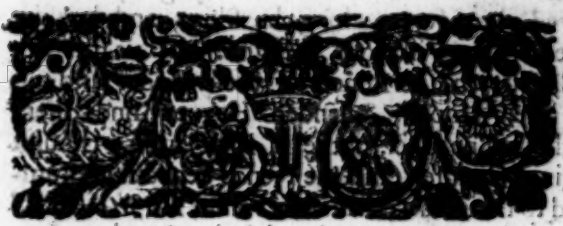
OF

Mr. J. Reading,

WHO

HATH MISDEMEANOURS,

With Allowance.



The Proceedings againſt Mr. Reading, *&c.*

TOO mighty are the Exorbitant thoughts of ambitious men for that mean Center Heaven has allowed, the which too often makes them ſtart beyond the bounds of Reaſon, and as often looſe themſelves in the vaſt Abiſs of their covetous deſires, by daring to attempt unlawful Actions for the hope of Lucre, prompted by an inſatiable Appetite to be advanced beyond what Heaven thinks convenient for their Stations; the which no ſooner venting on, but ſtraight the dreadful Shoales appear, and danger ſtarts from out his Ambuſcade to ſeize on the preſumptuous Hero, then turned fearful and amazed at ſuch an unexpected ſurprize, for diſtant Juſtice, to ſuch men, ſeems but like painted Fires, mere Metaphors or Shadows of deſpiſed Ills, that

only ſeem to weave aloft; nay more, they ſurely create theſe fond conceits unto themſelves, that all its Manaces, like Airy Clouds by guſty Winds diſſolved, are ſwept along the Skies, and dare not intercept their Villanous Deſigns: But 'tis ſtill obſerved, That in the fulneſs of their Pride, and top of all their Hopes, offended Heaven finds them out, though ne'er ſo ſubtile in their ways, though Hell gives Counſel, and the Fiends beneath are ſummoned to their aides, 'tis all in vain: No *Machiavell* with cunning Arts can e're delude Omnipotence, or turn unerring Juſtice back, as may be ſeen in this of which we here intend to treat; for could the Art of man have perfected the Politick Deſign, it ſure had been performed, or at leaſt huſhed in perpetual ſilence: But ſhort is finite wiſdom, if compared with Infinity, for oftentimes it confounds it ſelf; in what it ſelf ſuppoſed to be moſt ſecure and Humane Wit, is often turned to Fooliſhneſs, as it was evidently known.

Thus one Mr. *John Reading*, a Counſeller, one who was always looked upon to be a moſt grave and prudent man, but of an inclination covetous, and ſomewhat hard to the Poor; the which, as the Princely Prophet obſerves, are ſtill protected by the great *Jehove*; and Heaven always takes their Quarrel up againſt their mighty Foes, and they that have ſuch Power on their ſides need never fear the frowns of envious men: And it is commonly ſeen, That offended Juſtice finds ſome means to lay hold

on

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on thoſe who uſe ſuch Tyranny to their diſtreſſed Brethren, although not in the ſame nature ſuch a Cauſe requires, but by ſome different way, for whether the aforeſaid *John Reading* had any Actual Combination in the late moſt horrid and barbarous Plot is not as yet known. Upon eminent Cauſes of ſuſpicion he was apprehended and carried before the Committee for that purpoſe aſſembled, and all his Chambers (for he had ſeveral Chambers or Lodgings, as it is ſuppoſed, to abſcond himſelf in caſe his unlawful Practices were at any time diſcovered, and in ſeveral diſtant places) were ſeized upon, Padlock'd, and guarded by Authority. When he came before the Committee aforeſaid, he demeaned himſelf ſomewhat more confidently than ordinarily, but ſeeing it was in vain to contend with Power, he began to be very calm: There the Witneſſes alledged ſeveral groſsmiſdemeanors againſt him, to the great prejudice (if they had took effect) of this Government; the which he would there by no means confeſs, but the Witneſs being poſitive in their Allegations, he was by the ſaid Committee ordered to the County Goal of *Newgate*, where he continued for a conſiderable time, but on *Thurſday* the 24th of this Inſtant *April* 1679. he was brought to *Weſtminſter-Hall*, in order to his Examination or Tryal, to the *Kings-Bench-Bar*, where the Court being ſeated, the Jury pannell'd, and all things diſpoſed in order, his Indictment was read in publick audience, where he the ſaid *Reading* ſtood indicted for ſeveral great and hainous miſdemeanours

meanours so contrary to the established Laws of this Kingdom, and to the prejudice of his Majesties Crown and Dignity, for designing to corrupt several persons, the happy Discoverers of the late most pernicious and Diobolical Plots, and *Romish* Practices, against his most Sacred *Majesty* and his peaceful Government; the which being amply proved, and that he the said *Reading* received moneys for the better carrying on of his Illegal Design, as well for his own part as for the distributing amongst others, to make his Enterprise more easie in acquiring, but the Parties whom he designed upon, being endued with more Loyal Principles, and faithful to their Countreys safety, were they who impeached him, and now witnessed against him.

For these and such like hainous Offences he was condemned by the Court in a Fine of one thousand Pounds to the King, to suffer one years Imprisonment, and to stand in the Pillory three several days, in three publick places, viz. the Pallace-yard Westminster, Temple-Bar, *and the* Royal Exchange.

At the former of these places he stood, according to the Law in that case provided, on

Monday

Monday the 28*th* of *April*, for the ſpace of one hour, where to behold him the thronging Crouds preſs'd in from every ſide. The Officers were very diligent to prevent the Multitudes from throwing *Things*, as their uſual *manner* is, but their *diligence* was vain; for ſeveral *naucious things* were caſt upon him: He behaved himſelf very patiently in his *Sufferings*, perhaps becauſe he could not otherwiſe, by reaſon of his *Wooden Yoak*, avoid by *turning* his Head. After he had ſtood the time according to order, he was *conveyed* back to *Priſon*; upon his Forehead was impoſed, during the time of his *ſtanding* in the Pillory, a large Paper denoting his Offence, with this Inſcription, *viz. For endeavouring Subornation of Perjury*: and is to ſtand twice more, *viz.* at *Temple-Bar*, and the *Royal Exchange*.

Let this be a *warning* to all that hereafter ſhall dare, in the like nature, to offend; eſpecially in ſo *high* a manner: And 'tis but juſt that

that all thoſe whom *Covetouſneſs* can tempt upon ſuch baſe *Deſigns* to make them falſe, and break *Allegiance Vows*, ſhould feel the rigour of offended Juſtice, and be made exemplary Trophies of deſerved diſgrace, that after Ages may beware of ſuch pernicious Crimes.

FINIS.